

MISHICOT HERITAGE

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

On May 20, 1861 some early settlers organized to form the first Lutheran Congregation. Ten years later on February 19, 1871 the group named themselves The Evangelical Lutheran St. Peter Congregation and filed Articles of Incorporation at the Manitowoc County Court House.

The services for the first fourteen years were held in private homes and in the public school building located on the south side of cemetery hill across the street from the present Country Store.

In 1875 the first church was built. It served until the present structure was completed in 1927. During the first fifty years the congregation was served by thirteen traveling pastors and pastors from neighboring churches.

The present parsonage was constructed in 1902. In 1911 a seminary graduate, Edward F. Zell was called to serve the congregation. He married a local girl Alice K. Jindra and served here until his death in 1958.

In the fall of 1925 a new church building was begun. The method of building was copied from the method used to erect the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC. The granite stone came by railroad from Red Granite, WI to Francis Creek. From there farmer members hauled the stone by wagon to Mishicot. The stone construction was under the direction of Edward Wegner, a local contractor and the wood work was done by Matt Zima, a local carpenter. The old church was purchased through an auction by member George Barthels.

In 1972, an educational facility was added using material that coincided with the the existing structure. In 1983, an electric carillon was given by Frederick and Hazel Eisenmann in memory of their parents.

The St. Peter Lutheran School started with grades K-2 in the fall of 1986. In 1993 the schools of St.John, Gibson and St. Peter Mishicot merged to form the East Twin Lutheran School.

St. Peter Congregation has been affiliated with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) since its origin.